



#### Boating Infrastructure Grant Program -

### D. IF YOUR PROJECT IS APPROVED FOR FUNDING

If the application is approved for funding through the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS), the following procedure will be used:

1. A formal application for agreement will be prepared and submitted to the USFWS (see sample attached). The Boating Division will coordinate this effort; the grant recipient will assist as needed. This application will include more specific information about the project. Issues including community need, project objectives, expected results and benefits, approach, future income, environmental consequences, and historic preservation, will be addressed. **Please be advised that this process will take anywhere from a few to many months, depending on project conditions.**
2. Once the formal application for agreement has been approved by the USFWS, the DEP will enter into a formal project agreement with the USFWS. The agreement period may be up to three years.
3. DEP will draft a formal agreement to be initiated upon receipt of the DEP/USFWS signed agreement. The Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection, Connecticut Attorney General and the BIG Program grant recipient must sign this formal grant agreement.
4. DEP will forward an original agreement to the applicant with a letter of authorization to proceed with the project. The applicant can then begin construction, etc. at their convenience.

**NOTE:** Most project costs incurred prior to Federal approval and formal agreement between DEP and the grant recipient are not eligible for reimbursement. **It is imperative that NO construction or purchases commence prior to written approval from DEP.** Certain pre-agreement costs such as design and archeological surveys may be eligible for reimbursement if and only if a project is selected for funding.

#### Permit Requirements

The applicant is required to secure all local and state permits required for the project. This may include building and zoning permits, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers permits, a submerged land lease from DEP, and EPA permits, among others. Permits are not required prior to making application for a grant, but will be required before construction begins.

#### Design and Construction Requirements

The applicant must not award any construction contracts until after plans and specifications are approved by the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

The applicant is obliged to cooperate with the Connecticut DEP in order to ensure that the contractors comply with Equal Employment Opportunity requirements. This includes all bid advertisements.

Funded projects must also meet federal ADA requirements for barrier-free access (See Federal Register 09/03/02). This Federal Register contains information about barrier-free access at boating facilities as well as other types of outdoor recreation facilities. Design consultants and engineers need to plan accordingly. To obtain a copy of minimum design specifications and ADA requirements for boating facilities funded through the DEP Boating Division, contact: Mike Payton at (860) 434-8638.

#### Compliance

Features proposed under the BIG Program cannot cause damage to the environment nor to historic features. If the scope and nature of your project requires an Environmental Assessment (EA) to be completed, it will be the grantee's responsibility to have the EA prepared and approved. All facilities must comply with requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

#### Project Acknowledgement

A permanent sign acknowledging the Sport Fish Restoration Program is required for all projects. DEP will provide a sign for this acknowledgment.

**Post Construction, Operation and Maintenance**

Any facility that is developed with assistance from the Boating Infrastructure Grant Program and the DEP Boating Division shall be operated and maintained in accordance with all provisions of the grant agreement. The facility will be operated so as to appear attractive and inviting to the public and shall be kept safe for public use.

**Discrimination Prohibited**

The applicant/recipient agrees that no person shall, on the basis of race, sex, religion, age, color, any disability as defined in the Americans with Disabilities Act, national origin or familial status, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any program or activity for which the applicant/ recipient/ receives financial assistance from DEP Boating Division or U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

**Liability**

The grant recipient agrees to defend and hold the state free from liability in case of claim or suit arising from the construction, operation, or maintenance of this project.

**Questions?**

Contact Gwendolynn Flynn ([gwendolynn.flynn@po.state.ct.us](mailto:gwendolynn.flynn@po.state.ct.us), 860-434-8638) at the DEP Boating Division, 333 Ferry Road, P.O. Box 280, Old Lyme, CT 06371-0280.